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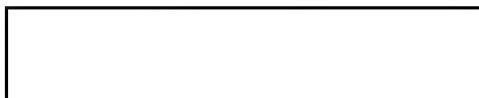
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Gibraltar: Madrid is stepping up its pressure in the dispute over Gibraltar.

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The fifth round of Anglo-Spanish talks on Spanish claims to Gibraltar had been scheduled for mid-April. London called them off, however, following Madrid's announcement that further restrictions on air traffic near Gibraltar would be imposed on 15 May. Trade and vehicular traffic between Spain and Gibraltar has been blocked since October 1966.

Spain is reluctant to accept the UK's offer to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice. The UN has called for self-determination, and the UK is considering proposing a UN-supervised referendum, which probably would favor continuing ties with Britain. To block such a contingency, Madrid is now turning its attention to the people of Gibraltar. While autonomy is considerably short of Madrid's desire, the Spanish would regard any relaxation of British control as a victory.

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NOTES

Nigeria: Federal leader Gowon reportedly has told Western Governor Adebayo and Yoruba army officers that all non-Yoruba troops--mostly Northerners--now in the West will be withdrawn by 31 May. Yoruba army personnel outside the West are to be returned home during the same period. If carried out, Gowon's decision will enable the Westerners to play a stronger role in the continuing crisis, but it could precipitate a move against him by hard-line Northern military elements chafing over the weakness of his measures against Eastern Governor Ojukwu.

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